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HUNGARY SPEEDS INDUCTION, WAR PREPARATIONS

CIVILIAN CONSTRUCTION HIT -- New York, Riportok es Hirek Magyarorszagrol,
1 Dec 50

The effects of Hungary's military preparations are already being felt by the population. Induction of the youths of some families creates the serious problem of the support of aging parents and of what will happen to the job that is left during 3 years of military service.

As a result of the enormous consumption of raw materials for military preparations, construction of barracks, etc., not a pane of glass can be bought in Budapest.

Construction of civilian housing has proportionately decreased. The repair of the former Adria insurance building did not supply dwellings for the civilian population, but is being used as a new police headquarters. The cells of this station were built under the direction of 60 Stalin ut and the building includes a torture chamber fitted out like a laboratory. To the left of Budakeszi ut, construction work is going on behind barbed wire and under State Security Authority (AVO) guard. A rumor that there is an explosives store or laboratory on the site is keeping the inhabitants of the vicinity in constant terror of an explosion which would also destroy Janos Hospital. Long, low pavillions and many underground areas are being built. An inquirer was told that a similar mysterious construction on the Rozsadomb was to be used as an AVO sanatorium. When the latter construction was completed, no one was permitted to approach the building. It is suspected that this is also a disguised military installation.

The most imposing military construction in all the country is the military chemicals factory being built at Sajobabony. The 6,000 laborers employed in excavating and laying the foundation constitute an entire city larger than the 1,000-inhabitant town itself, and occupying 400 cadastral yokes. An entire mountain has been moved, and excavations are being carried out in another hill for the construction of the underground portion of the building.

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MOBILIZATION SPEEDED -- Munich, Hungaria, 8 Dec 50

A strenuous effort is being made toward mobilization in Hungary. More uniforms are seen on the streets of Budapest now than at the peak of the war. There are no more male streetcar conductors or taxi drivers in Pest. They are all in active service. Besides the mass induction of younger age groups, most World War II veterans are back in uniform. They are not being forced, but are volunteering. Members of the armed services are well provided with food. This alleviates the food problems of their families and also means a source of extra income from the sale of surplus food.

"UNRELIABLE" RESERVES CONSTRUCT AUSTRIAN BORDER FORTIFICATIONS -- Munich, Hungaria, 8 Dec 50

It is reported from Vienna that increasing effort is being expended in Hungary to speed up Cominform-ordered war preparations. Although more soldiers were seen on city streets this fall than at the peak of the war, army enrollments still did not satisfy Moscow's requirements.

On 15 November, a large-scale summoning of reservists to active duty was begun for the purpose of "retraining." Previously, 3-month retraining courses had been held for the old, select, reliable reserves, but the new retraining is exclusively for individuals classified as unreliable on the basis of house-to-house canvassing by Communist agitators and plant stewards in connection with, and preceding, the loan-drive. The stewards later made confidential reports to the party center on reliability and attitude of the individuals.

Reservists arriving at southern and southwest centers were amazed that, instead of reporting to Hungarian military authorities, they had to report to Soviet military and State Security Authority representatives. These representatives announced to the "retrainees" that they must perform a military task to protect the peace. They would work on the rapid, disciplined construction of fortifications in the threatened border zone under the direction of the "guardian of the peace" of the people's democracies, the Red Army, because the "insidious attack of the Western imperialists similar to that in Korea" against Hungary was increasingly to be expected. The fortification work, then, is very important in checking the "imminent, insidious imperialist attack."

The reservists were then directed to designated border communities by armed Soviet and State Security Authority escorts. There they were quartered in hastily constructed barracks and tents. The retrainees did not receive uniforms, but had to work in civilian clothes. The fortification work consists of clearing forests, constructing tank traps and pillboxes, digging armored trenches, and laying mine fields. Work continues from early morning to late at night, with a short break at noon. Armed Soviet soldiers guard their "associates" and the workers are subjected to inhuman treatment. Beatings and physical punishment are daily occurrences, and the Hungarians are suffering severely from poor lodging, heavy work, poor food, and wretched treatment. Because of the closeness of the border, many try to escape into Austria, although those caught trying to flee are shot on the spot without trial. The attitude of Hungarian reserves who have been tricked into forced labor under armed Soviet guard, with no outlook for an increase in rank, is extraordinarily bitter.

The summons to report for duty in working clothes within 24 hours came as a complete surprise and caused panic among a large portion of the population. No one who received a summons to service was exempted, not even experts employed in war plants or individuals holding important positions in

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government offices. The consequences are becoming noticeable in production delays. These difficulties are augmented by the recent government order that factories, enterprises, and offices employ only women to replace reservists called to duty. The government order places particular emphasis on the goal that by 31 December at least 10 percent of factory workers should be women.

ARMY BUYS HORSES -- New York, Riportok es Hirek Magyarorszagrol, 23 Dec 50

Horse-breeding villages on the plains have received strict orders from the government to deliver horses suitable for military purposes. At Mako, horses are continuously being purchased for the army.

SULFUR ALLOCATED -- New York, Riportok es Hirek Magyarorszagrol, 16 Dec 50

As a result of the allocation of sulfur for military industry, there is a shortage of matches in Budapest. At the end of November, a package of matches sold for one forint in the Budapest black market.

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